

## Robin Hood and the Tanner.

Or, Robin Hood met with his Match: A merry and pleasant Ballad, of the matchless  
 Combate between Arthur Bland, a Tanner of Nottingham, and Robin Hood, the great Ar-  
 cher in England. Tune is, Robin Hood and the Sheriff.



**I**n Nottingham there lives a jolly Tanner,  
 with a hey down down a down down,  
 his name is Arthur a Bland,  
 There is ne're a Squire in Nottingham-shire,  
 dare bid bold Arthur to stand.  
 With a long Pike-staff upon his shoulder,  
 with a hey, &c.  
 so well he can clear his way,  
 By the end by the he makes them to flee,  
 for he hath no list to see.  
 As he went forth on a Summers morning,  
 with a hey, &c.  
 in the Forrest of merry Sherwood,  
 To view the red Deer that range here and there,  
 there met he with bold Robin Hood.  
 As soon as bold Robin he did him espie,  
 with a hey, &c.  
 he thought some sport he would make,  
 Therefore out of hand he bid him to stand,  
 and thus to him he did speak.  
 Why, what art thou, thou bold fellow,  
 with a hey, &c.  
 that ranges so boldly here,  
 Aslooth to be brief, thou look'st like a Thief,  
 that comes to steal the Kings Deer.  
 If thou beest a Keeper in this Forrest,  
 with a hey, &c.  
 the King puts me in trust,  
 To look to his Deer that range here and there,  
 therefore say that I must,  
 If thou beest a Keeper in this Forrest,  
 with a hey, &c.  
 and hast such a great command,  
 Then thou must have more partakers in store,  
 before thou mak'st me to stand.

Nay, I have no more partakers in store,  
 with a hey, &c.  
 nor any that I do need.  
 But I have a Staff of another Oak-grass,  
 I know it will do the deed:  
 For thy sword; thy bow I care not a straw,  
 with a hey, &c.  
 nor all thy Arrows to boot,  
 If thou get a knock upon the bare scap,  
 thou canst as well flye as foot,  
 Speake cleanly, speak cleanly, said jolly Robin,  
 with a hey, &c.  
 and give better terms to me.  
 Else I'll thee correct for thy neglect  
 and make thee more manly.  
 HARRY GIP with a winnow, quoth Arthur a Bland,  
 with a hey, &c.  
 art thou such a goodly man?  
 I care not a fig for thy looking so big,  
 mend thou thy self where thou can.  
 Then Robin Hood he unbuckled his belt,  
 with a hey, &c.  
 and threw it upon the ground,  
 Says, I have a staff of another Oak-grass,  
 that is both strong and sound  
 But let me measure, said jolly Robin,  
 with a hey, &c.  
 since thou wilt not yield to mine.  
 For I have a staff of another Oak-grass,  
 not half a foot longer than thine.  
 But let me measure, said jolly Robin,  
 with a hey, &c.  
 before we begin our fray,  
 for I'll not have mine to longer than thine,  
 for I'll be counted foul play.

I pass not too length, bold Arthur reply'd,  
 with a hey, &c.  
 my staff is of Oak so free,  
 Eight foot and a half, it will knock down a Calf,  
 and I hope it will knock down thee.  
 Then Robin Hood could no longer forbear,  
 with a hey, &c.  
 he gave him such a knock,  
 Quickly and soon, the blood came down,  
 before it was ten a Clock  
 Then Arthur soon recover'd himself,  
 with a hey, &c.  
 and gave him such a knock on the crown,  
 That from every hair of bold Robins head  
 the blood came trickling down.  
 Then Robin Hood raved like a wild Bear,  
 with a hey, &c.  
 as soon as he saw his own blood,  
 Then Bland was in haste, he laid on so fast  
 as though he had been flacking at a good.  
 And about, and about, and about they went,  
 with a hey, &c.  
 like two wild Boars in a chase,  
 Striving to aim each other to maintain  
 Leg, arm, or any place.  
 And knock for knock they lustily dealt,  
 with a hey, &c.  
 which held two hours and more.  
 That all the wood rang at every bang,  
 they ply'd their work so free.  
 Hold thy hand, hold thy hand, said Robin Hood,  
 with a hey, &c.  
 and let our Quarrel fall,  
 For here we may thrash our bones to mash,  
 and get no Corn at all :  
 And in the Forrest of merry Sherwood,  
 with a hey, &c.  
 hereafter thou shalt be free.  
 Can mercy for nought, my freedom I've bought,  
 I may thank my good staff, and not thee.  
 What rebelman art thou, said jolly Robin,  
 with a hey, &c.  
 good fellow I purther me now,  
 And also me tell, in what place thou dost dwell,  
 for both these I can waite I know.  
 I am a Tanner, bold Arthur reply'd,  
 with a hey, &c.  
 in Nottingham long have I wrought,  
 And if thou come there, I trow I do swear,  
 I will tann thy hide for nought :  
 God a mercy good fellow, said jolly Robin,  
 with a hey, &c.  
 since thou art so kind to me,  
 And if thou wilt tann my hide for nought,  
 I will do as much for thee.  
 But if thou wilt forsake thy Tanners Trade,  
 with a hey, &c.  
 a life in the green woods with me,

My name is Robin Hood, I twear by the wood,  
 I will give thee both gold and see :  
 If thou be Robin Hood, bold Arthur reply'd,  
 with a hey, &c.  
 as I think well thou art,  
 Then here's my hand, my name's Arthur Bland  
 we two will never part.  
 But tell me, O tell me, where is little John ?  
 with a hey, &c.  
 of him Iain would I hear,  
 For we are Ally'd by the Mothers side,  
 and he is my kinsman near.  
 When Robin Hood blew on his bugle horn  
 with a hey, &c.  
 he blew both loud and shrill,  
 And quickly anon, appear'd little John,  
 come tripping o'er the Hill.  
 O what is the matter, then said little John,  
 with a hey, &c.  
 Master I pray you me tell,  
 Why do you stand with your staff in your hand.  
 I fear all is not well,  
 O man I do stand, and he makes me to stand,  
 with a hey, &c.  
 the Tanner that stands thee beside,  
 he is a bonny blade, and master of his trade,  
 for soundly he hath tann'd my hide,  
 he is to be commended, then said little John,  
 with a hey, &c.  
 if such a feat he can do.  
 If he be so stout, we will have a bout,  
 and he shall tann my hide too.  
 Hold thy hand, hold thy hand, said Robin Hood  
 with a hey, &c.  
 for as I do understand,  
 He is a Pleoman good, and of thy own blood,  
 for his name is Arthur a Bland.  
 Then little John threw his staff away,  
 with a hey, &c.  
 and as far as he could it fling,  
 And ran out of hand to Arthur a Bland,  
 and about his neck did cling.  
 With loving respect there was no neglect,  
 with a hey, &c.  
 they was neither nice nor coy,  
 Each other did face with a lovely grace,  
 a both did weep for joy.  
 Then Robin Hood took them both by the hand,  
 with a hey, &c.  
 and danc'd about the Oak-tree,  
 for three merry men, and three merry men,  
 and three merry men we be.  
 And ever hereafter as long as we live,  
 with a hey, &c.  
 we three will be all as one.  
 The wood shall ring, and the old ivy sing,  
 of Robin Hood, Arthur and John.

F I N I S.